

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 03510 01 OF 02 070829Z

12

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 H-01 OMB-01 PRS-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 MMS-01 /057 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9017

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

DOD WASHDC

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

HQ 3AF RAF MILDENHALL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 03510

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, GW, RP, IT, JA, XX, UK

SUBJECT: PHASE-OUT OF 44OL OTH RADAR SYSTEM

REF: STATE 45431

1. MOD HAS PASSED US FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO
RELEASE TO EMPLOYEES AT RAF FELTWELL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW-
ING MARCH 7 DOD STATEMENT ON WORLDWIDE BASE CLOSURE.
STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE I HAVE TO INFORM YOU THAT THE RADIO OPER-
ATION BEING CARRIED OUT HERE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE U.S.
AIR FORCE WILL END VERY SHORTLY. AS A RESULT OF THIS
DECISION NO. 204 SIGNAL UNIT WILL BE CLOSED AND I
AM SORRY TO HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT IT IS EXPECTED THAT
ABOUT 10 CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AT THIS STATION WILL BECOME
REDUNDANT IN THEIR PRESENT PLACE.

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PAGE 02 LONDON 03510 01 OF 02 070829Z

ALL THOSE AFFECTED WILL BE ADVISED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THE APPROPRIATE REDUNDANCY ARRANGEMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT REGULATIONS. WE SHALL, OF COURSE, DO ALL WE CAN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT TO FIND OTHER WORK FOR THOSE WHOSE SERVICES HAVE TO BE TERMINATED UNQUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS HAVE BEEN PREPARED BY MOD IN CONSULTATION WITH HQ 3AF:

Q: THE FELTWELL FACILITY, WILL CLOSE DOWN VERY SHORTLY. WHEN WILL THIS OCCUR?

A. WE EXPECT THE RADIO RESEARCH FACILITY TO CEASE OPERATIONS BY MID-MARCH.

Q: WHY IS THE UNIT CLOSING DOWN AT SUCH SHORT NOTICE?

A: THE PROGRAM IT WAS SET UP TO CARRY OUT HAS BEEN COMPLETED. WITH BOTH THE U.S. AND THE U.K. LOOKING FOR WAYS TO REDUCE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES THERE SEEMED NO POINT IN KEEPING A NOW REDUNDANT FACILITY OPEN ANY LONGER.

Q: WHAT ARE THE RADIO OPERATIONS YOU MENTION IN THE PREVIOUS STATEMENT?

A. A PROGRAM OF RESEARCH INTO THE REFLECTION OF HIGH FREQUENCY RADIO WAVES FROM THE IONOSPHERE.

Q: DOES UNIT WORK ON ITS OWN, OR ARE THERE SIMILAR UNITS ELSEWHERE?

A: I UNDERSTAND THERE ARE SEVERAL SIMILAR UNITS OUTSIDE THE U.K.

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PAGE 01 LONDON 03510 02 OF 02 070831Z

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 03510

Q: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE AERIALS, ETC., WILL
THEY BE CLEARED AWAY?

A: THIS WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER THE AMERICANS OR
OURSELVES HAVE ANY FURTHER USE FOR THEM.

Q: HAS THE UNIT ANY CONNECTION WITH BALLISTIC
MISSILE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (BMEWS)?

A: NO.

Q: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RAF PERSONNEL AT FELT-
WELL?

A: THEY WILL BE POSTED TO OTHER RAF UNITS AS SOON
AS IS PRACTICAL.
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PAGE 02 LONDON 03510 02 OF 02 070831Z

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE CIVILIANS THAT WILL BE MADE
REDUNDANT?

A: WE SHALL ENDEAVOR TO FIND OTHER EMPLOYMENT FOR
THEM, BUT IF THEIR SERVICES HAVE TO BE TERMINATED,
THEY WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR APPROPRIATE REDUNDANCY BENEFITS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR STANDARD ARRANGEMENTS.

Q: ARE THE AMERICANS MOVING OUT OF FELTWELL?

A: U.S. PERSONNEL HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN THE
RADIO RESEARCH UNIT. WE EXPECT THAT PERSONNEL STATIONED
AT RAF LAKENHEATH AND MILDENHALL WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUPY
HOUSING UNITS AT RAF FELTWELL AND THAT THE USAF DEPEND-
ENTS SCHOOL AT RAF FELTWELL WILL CONTINUE OPERATIONS
THERE.

3. REQUEST CLEARANCE OF PROPOSED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
FOR USE MARCH 7 ASAP.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASE CLOSINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON03510
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750080-0153
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750373/aaaacnfy.tel
Line Count: 180
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 45431
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PHASE-OUT OF 44OL OTH RADAR SYSTEM
TAGS: MILI, GE, RP, IT, JA, XX, UK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006